SEES RELIGIOUS DANCE OF UTES

Ogden Man Attends Annual Sun Dance on Uintah Reservation

Marking the great religious event of the Ute Indians on the Uintah reservation, the annual sun dance, where the Indians call upon their diety to protect the health of the community, was held last week and was witnessed by Prof. Andrew A. Kerr, of Ogden, who is now instructor of anthropology at Harvard. Mr. Kerr is also field worker for the University of Utah archaeology department and in this capacity attended the event. Indian braves started on Monday and until Thursday noon, kept up an incessant dance, stopping for neither food nor water. The rite was held in a corral about 40 feet in diameter and at the center of the inclosure was a brilliantly painted forked pole, surmounted by a buffalo skull. The dancers were bedecked with soft tufts of feathers and carried white eagle's wings as a part of the ceremonial custom.

A prize for the most skillful dancer was awarded to an old man, 80 years old.

Ill members of the tribe receive prayers and invocations of the medicine man as a part of the ceremony. He rubs an eagle's wing in the dirt, and then rubs the body of his patient. The wing is then used to scatter earth, signifying the taking of pain from the body and flinging it away.